



THE STANDARD

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ON THE COVER - Survey Crews work into the evening to complete a project.

BOARD INFORMATION

- BELS is comprised of nine members. Five professional engineers, two professional land surveyors, and two public members.
- All members are vetted by specific nominating committees. The committees then submit a list of three names to the Governor who makes the appointment.
- Board meetings are held every two months beginning in January and are open to the public.



THE STANDARD is a publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Digital Editions are posted on our website.

Staff Contact Information can be found by using the following link:
<https://bels.alabama.gov/about/staff/>



NEED A SPEAKER?

We cover the following:

PDH / CEU topics include:

- Enforcement Case Studies
- Ethics
- Law and Rules

If interested please email:
e.johnson@bels.alabama.gov

COMMUNITY NEWS



2022 ASCE/APWA Alabama Summer Meeting

The Summer Meeting of the Alabama Section ASCE and Alabama Chapter APWA was held at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, July 13-15, 2022.

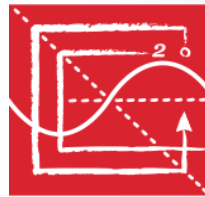


NCEES

101st Annual Meeting

AUGUST 23-26, 2022

NCEES will host their 2022 Annual Meeting at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California. The Council will reconvene in person to decide key licensure issues.



NCEES
*advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors*

NCEES EXAMS

The NCEES Structural exams are moving to a computer based format by 2024. The following dates are possibly the last scheduled pencil and paper exams.

	Year	Date
Structural Vertical	2022	Oct 20
	2023	Apr 13, Oct 26
Structural Lateral	2022	Oct 21
	2023	Apr 14, Oct 27

2022 Board Calendar—4th Quarter

July 4th - Independence Day Holiday

July 13-15 - ASCE Conference

August 2nd - Board Meeting

September 5th - Labor Day Holiday



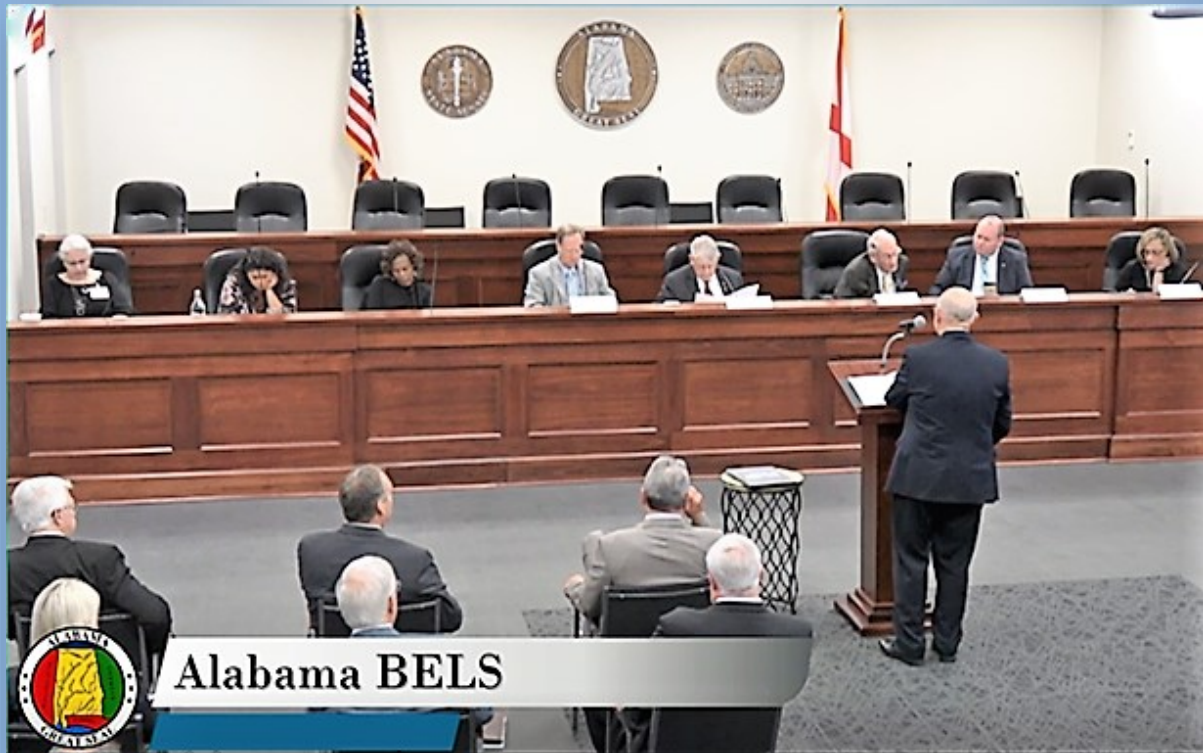
HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD



Members of the BELS staff attended the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors Southern/Central Zone meeting in Oklahoma City. During their meeting, Executive Director Rick Huett was recognized for his Meritorious Service with NCEES. Director Huett has been a member of NCEES for twenty years. Over his time in service, he handles the day to day operations within BELS. He is also active with legislation that affects regulatory issues for both engineers and surveyors. He has served on the Law Enforcement Committee and has presented at NCEES sessions and forums. He currently serves on the Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Committee. Congratulations Director Huett and thank you for all of your hard work.

HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD

In May, the Board for BELS met in Montgomery. During the day, they reported to the Legislative Sunset Review Board. Several topics discussed in the Sunset Review were the qualification process for Land Surveyors and the lack of licensees in the Land Surveying profession. Beyond that discussion, there were no findings in the report.



The Board also recognized Helen Adams-Morales as she is exiting the board after her five year term. Ms. Adams-Morales was awarded a Resolution from the Alabama Senate for her work as a professional engineer detailing her many accomplishments during her career. Board Chair Joseph Breighner, Jr. also presented Ms. Adams-Morales a plaque demonstrating the appreciation the Board has for her years of service. We wish Ms. Adams-Morales well in all of her future endeavors.

HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD



BELS Investigators Bob Herbert, Bill Hamil, and Everette Johnson attended the 2022 Code Officials Association of Alabama's Education Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama. During their time at the conference, Investigator Hamil presented to the Association details about what the Board does. He also discussed cases that demonstrated how the Code Officials from throughout the state could assist the Board in their investigations.



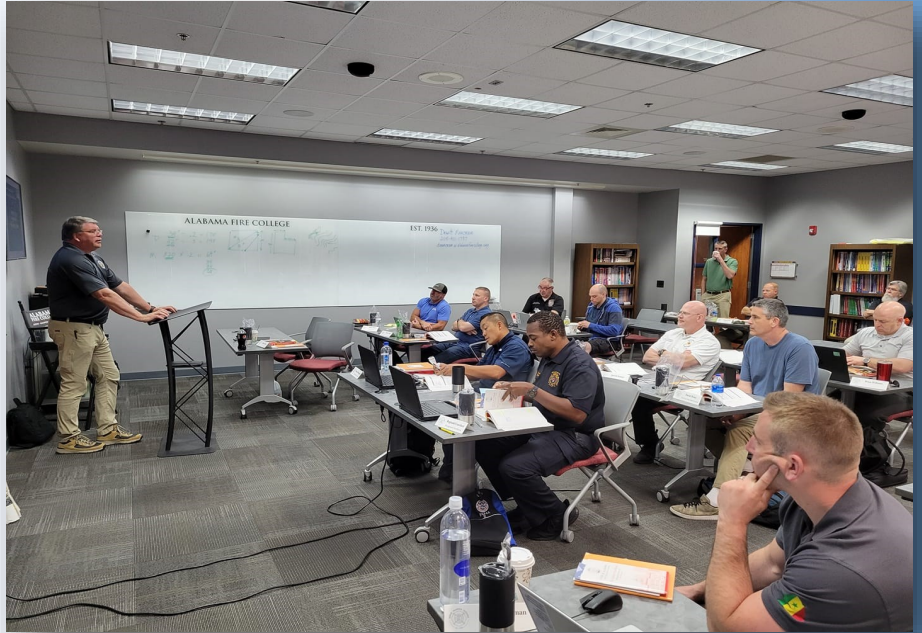
Investigator Bill Hamil speaking with attendees of the Code Officials Association of Alabama Education Conference

Chief Investigator Bob Herbert and Investigator Everette Johnson speaking with attendees at the 2022 COAA Education Conference.



HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD

The Special Investigators along with staff members of the Alabama Board of Architects also went to the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to discuss with Plans Examiners how they can determine if plans submitted to them are safe and certified to be approved. Topics discussed were BELS Law and Codes as well as cases investigated where issues were found that would affect Plans Examiners.



Chief Investigator Bob Herbert addressing students at the Plans Examiners Training in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



Chief Investigator Bob Herbert, Investigator Everette Johnson, Debbie Whitman of the Board of Architecture, and Dewit Marcum of the Alabama Fire College.

HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD

MS/AL Association of Professional Engineers Conference

Special Investigators Bob Herbert and Everette Johnson attended the Mississippi/Alabama Association of Professional Engineers Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. Chief Herbert presented a session on ethics and the role that the Board plays in ensuring public health, safety, and welfare. They also met with attendees during vendor times.

Chief Investigator Bob Herbert presenting to the attendees at the conference.

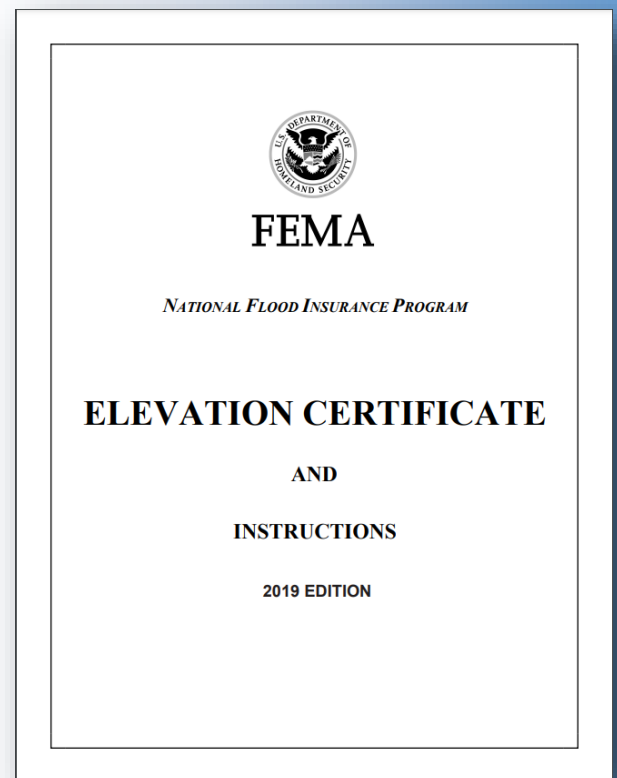


Chief Herbert meeting with attendees at the vendor section of the MS/AL Association of Professional Engineers Conference.

HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD



Investigators Bill Hamil and Everette Johnson attended the Elevation Certificate Basics training in Alabaster. This training helped the investigators as well as surveyors and government officials learn more about being compliant with creating FEMA Elevation Certificates and properly completing the documents.



HAPPENINGS AT THE BOARD

ASPLS Summer Conference

The Staff of BELS attended the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors Summer Conference in Gulf Shores. The staff discussed with the attendees the need for Technical Advisors as well as legislative initiatives in the upcoming legislative session. There were also several topics discussed during the training at the conference. Those were a refresher of the Standards of Practice, legalities involving land surveying, and how to deal with the hazards of wildlife while out in the field.



Above left: Attendees at the conference.

Above: Chief Investigator Bob Herbert talking with ALPLS President Tony Manary.

Left: Chief Investigator Bob Herbert and Investigator Bill Hamil.

THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Is Your Address Correct?

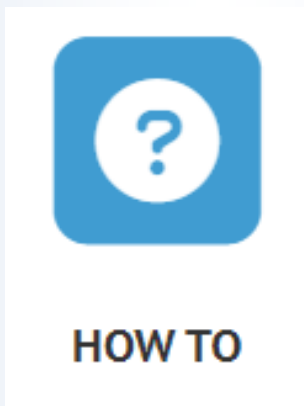
The Board requires each licensee to provide written notification of changes to their mailing address and business affiliation within 30 days after a change. We understand that in this day and time licensees are beginning to rely more and more on administrative individuals, or vendors to update their personal information, renew their license, etc.

This sometimes causes a bit of a problem which usually can be cleared up by explanation and updating your information. In a recent example a licensee had worked in a different location for several years than what was indicated in his personal information on file with the Board. It was determined that an administrative person was responsible for renewing his license and instead of listing his office location, simply listed the firm's home office address in his personal information.

This raised questions relating to the firm's certificate of authorization which did not identify his actual location. It can also require an explanation when an individual applying for licensure indicates they are in one location, but the Board's records indicate a different one.

To avoid these type issues please ensure your address and business affiliation information are correct in the Board's records. Just simply login to your My BELS account, and make whatever changes you need to make.

We also have a "How To" guide on our website.



THE DIRECTOR'S DESK (cont.)

Company Remote Supervision Plans

The Board was recently asked to review a company's plan to document the engineering experience its employees received while working remotely. After review and discussion, the Board determined that it did not wish to pre-approve remote supervision plans, and further decided to add a sentence to its current remote supervision policy to that effect.

The Board's Remote Supervision Policy is located on the Board's website by clicking on the word "Applications" on the home page. The policy outlines the Board's expectations for firms when they create their remote supervision plans. The policy states the following:

- An active formal training and supervision plan must be developed by a company wishing to employ remote supervision techniques, that describes, in detail, the methodologies to be employed for remote supervision, the frequency of in person face-to-face interaction, and the frequency of virtual contact between the engineer and/or land surveyor intern and the supervisor.
- The company will be responsible for implementing and maintaining a plan that is consistent for all interns, guides the intern towards progressive knowledge and responsibility, and shall include a requirement stating that a **majority** of the supervised training shall be in person face-to-face interaction.
- Documented evidence must be provided to the Board that clearly shows adherence to the remote supervision plan demonstrates increased responsibility.



ENFORCEMENT NEWS

William Griswold - Case # 2021-21

On March 8, 2022, a hearing was held regarding charges filed against William Griswold, a previously licensed professional engineer for possibly violating the Code of Alabama Chapter 34. An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) presided over the hearing and Mr. Griswold participated electronically. After the hearing, the ALJ provided a recommendation to the Board that stated Mr. Griswold be found guilty of offering engineering services in the State of Alabama without a license, be required to pay a \$30,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund and pay \$425 to the Board for the cost of the hearing. At its May 19, 2022, meeting the Board accepted the recommendations of the ALJ, found Mr. Griswold guilty and issued an Order that required him to pay a \$30,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund and pay \$425 to the Board for the cost of the hearing.

Ardebili Engineering LLC - Case # 2022-02

An investigation determined Ardebili Engineering LLC, offered engineering services for a project in the State of Alabama without being issued a certificate of authorization for engineering by the Board. The investigation also revealed that the design plans for the project contained an Exterior Lighting Compliance Certificate that included the signature with the name Omid Ardebili, along with the letters P.E., without Mr. Ardebili being licensed as a professional engineer in the State of Alabama.

The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$4,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay the Board \$130 for the cost of the investigation, and the consent order and final order would be public records.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

FY2022 Stats are as of June 30, 2022

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveyors	Total
FY2022	10	7	3	0	26
FY2021	11	6	14	2	33
FY2020	8	9	10	2	29
FY2019	15	5	11	0	31
FY2018	13	7	9	4	33

ENFORCEMENT NEWS (cont.)

Armstrong-Douglas Partners LLC - Case # 2022-08 and 2022-09

An investigation determined Armstrong-Douglas Partners LLC, offered engineering services for a project in the State of Alabama without being issued a certificate of authorization for engineering by the Board. The investigation also revealed the design plans contained the Texas professional engineer seal of Scott Armstrong; but did not contain his State of Alabama professional engineer seal.

Mr. Armstrong agreed to a consent order that required the firm to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, him to pay a \$500 fine to the Board for failing to seal documents with the correct seal, to pay the Board \$175 for the cost of the investigation, and the consent order and final order would be public records.

ASSR Consultants LLC - Case # 2022-18

An investigation determined the firm, ASSR Consultants LLC, offered engineering services for 35 projects in the State of Alabama without being issued a certificate of authorization for engineering by the Board.

The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$7,080 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay the Board \$115 for the cost of the investigation, and the consent order and final order would be public records.

COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

FY2022 Stats are as of June 30, 2022

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveyors	Total
FY2022	5	2	7	1	15
FY2021	8	9	10	1	28
FY2020	11	8	10	2	31
FY2019	20	5	17	2	44
FY2018	12	6	11	5	34

We are attempting to increase our engagement on social media. By using your camera on your phone, scan the below code to have direct access to our Facebook page.



our MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.



**“The engineer has been, and
is, a maker of history.”**

**James Kip Finch, American
engineer**

ONE LAST THOUGHT